

had spectacular success, not least in Papua New Guinea and Ecuador, while at other times it holds little excitement. Rotting fruit is another standby for many butterflies, some of which rarely or ever visit flowers. Just as the Red Admirals (*Vanessa atalanta*) of Europe, they often get so intoxicated that they cannot fly straight, or indeed not fly at all.

One benefit to the entomologist of these feeding habits is that some butterflies, which are otherwise almost impossible to find, can be trapped. The traps are simple, consisting of a tube of mosquito netting with a narrow gap at the bottom. They are baited with rotting crabs or fermenting bananas, and suddenly butterflies appear as if by magic. The first time I used traps, I had more specimens of *Charaxes* in one trap than I had caught during three weeks of conventional collecting. For some reason the traps never seem to get stolen, even where many people are about, possibly because they are considered some sort of *juju* (magic).

The need to carry foul substances sometimes leads to awkward situations. I had a suitcase which for several years in damp weather still smelled of a mixture of palm wine and fermenting banana, a bottle of which had literally exploded due to my carelessness in not relieving the pressure before setting out on a trip. I would have liked, though, seeing the face of the unknown miscreant in Kenya, who made off with two Johnny Walker bottles full of urine from my car, when he took the first tot on arriving home!— TORBEN B. LARSEN, 358 Coldharbour Lane, London SW9 8PL.

***Cercyon bifenestratus* Küster (Col.: Hydrophilidae) new to Gloucestershire (v.c. 33) with notes on *Cercyon marinus* Thomson.**

In 1989 (*Entomologist's mon. Mag.* **125**: 150) I referred to the presence of *Cercyon marinus* Th. at Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire. The evidence for breeding at the site was the result of finding teneral imagines with a single mature individual. I now recognise that the teneral specimens of June 1987 represent *Cercyon bifenestratus* Küst., which is a major extension of the range of the species from the more southern counties of England (Allen 1970, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* **106**: 5; Collier, 1987, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* **123**: 249.).

Since two superficially similar species can co-habit I am examining my limited evidence for their ecological preference.

Of the two, *C. marinus* is somewhat more aquatic and less tolerant of exposure. However, I know this species from only one site in Worcestershire, the Milestone Ground Pit at Broadway (Whitehead, in press). Here it was taken in March 1989 under a mat of dried algae 60cms up a shaded willow stump; in the April and May it was taken on floating logs with other beetles of similar persuasion. At Bishop's Cleeve, *C. marinus* has been taken under the foliage of a poolside grass, *Agrostis stolonifera* L., and under floating timber.

In Britain, I have not yet managed to locate *C. marinus* in riparian contexts, but have done so on riverside sand in Yakutia, USSR. I have taken both species at the faeces of wildfowl, *C. marinus* at that of Mallard, and *C. bifenestratus* in cop. at Bishop's Cleeve, July 1989 at that of Canada Goose, and this may not be purely due to chance. *C. bifenestratus* is typical, it would appear, of soft, silty, sandy or clayey, minerogenic sediments.

I wish to thank Mr A.A. Allen for his profound influence on this note.— P.F. WHITEHEAD, Moor Leys, Little Comberton, Pershore, Worcs WR10 3EP.

Reappearance of *Triplax aenea* (Schaller) (Col.: Erotylidae) in Surrey.

Apparently the only published record of this species in Surrey is that of Stephens (1839, *Man. Brit. Col.*: 133) who lists Coombe Wood — a once important locality which is now a residential estate. There then appears to have been a gap of over 140 years in which none was recorded from the county, although unlike *Triplax russica* (L.) which genuinely seems to have disappeared from the county, *T. aenea* may have been present all the time in low numbers.

I have encountered *aenea* at three different locations in Surrey in recent years, these being Leith Hill in 1983 (TQ 1342), White Downs in 1985 and 1986 (TQ 1149) and White Hill in 1989 (TQ 1853). The latest find was during an organised trip to Box Hill.— D.A. PRANCE, 209 Peregrine Road, Sunbury, Middlesex TW16 6JJ.

***Apion urticarium* Hbst. (Col.: Apionidae) in a suburban garden**

On 12th May last I swept two specimens of this pretty and very local little *Apion* from nettles in my garden — an agreeable surprise since I had never before found the species in this area, but (in Kent) only considerably farther east: between Dartford and Darenth and near Higham very sparingly, and one in the Erith - Crayford area (1984). That *A. urticarium* is a newcomer to the garden is a virtual certainty, as I have often over the years swept those particular nettles and could hardly have overlooked it. This may be a new record for the immediate environs of London, and the rather shady situation is scarcely typical for the species which prefers open places as a rule. As it lives upon an ubiquitous plant, yet its colonies tend to be very scattered and mostly small, it would seem to have special requirements so far unrecognised.— A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

Second brood records of *Lacanobia thalassina* Hufn. (Lep.: Noctuidae), the Pale-shouldered Brocade, from Rothamsted Insect Survey light traps.

Heath and Emmet (*The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland*, 9, 1979. Curwen, London) state that this species is usually